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H01L 23/28; H01L 21/561; H01L 21/565;
H01L 21/268; H01L 23/3114; H01L 23/3157;
H01L 24/11; H01L 24/14
See application file for complete search history.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

<i>H01L 21/268</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 21/78</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 23/00</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 21/56</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 23/31</i>	(2006.01)

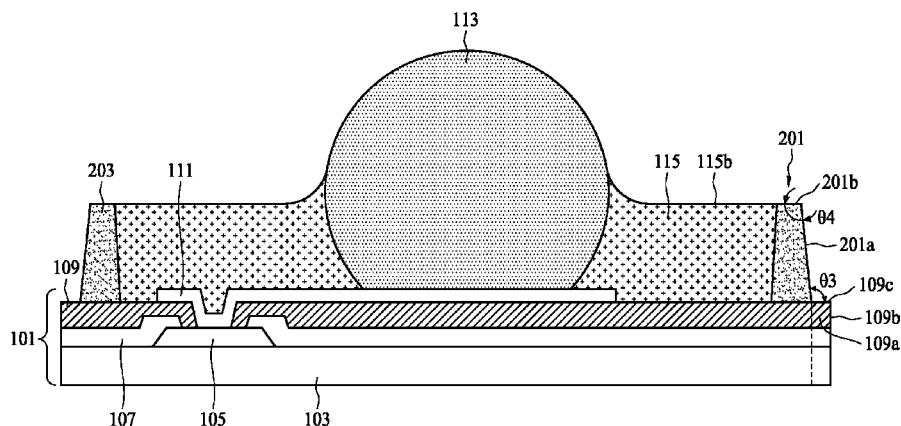
(57) **ABSTRACT**

(52) U.S. Cl.

CPC ***H01L 24/14*** (2013.01); ***H01L 21/268***
(2013.01); ***H01L 21/561*** (2013.01); ***H01L***
21/78 (2013.01); ***H01L 23/3157*** (2013.01);
H01L 24/11 (2013.01); ***H01L 23/3114***
(2013.01); ***H01L 2224/11334*** (2013.01); ***H01L***
2224/13014 (2013.01); ***H01L 2224/13016***
(2013.01); ***H01L 2224/13023*** (2013.01); ***H01L***
2924/12042 (2013.01); ***H01L 2924/181***
(2013.01)

A semiconductor device includes a substrate includes a first layer and a second layer over the first layer, a bump disposed over the second layer, a molding disposed over the second layer and surrounding the bump, and a retainer disposed over the second layer, wherein the retainer is disposed between the molding and a periphery of the substrate. Further, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device includes providing a substrate, disposing several bumps on the substrate, disposing a retainer on the substrate and surrounding the bumps, and disposing a molding between the bumps and the retainer.

19 Claims, 29 Drawing Sheets



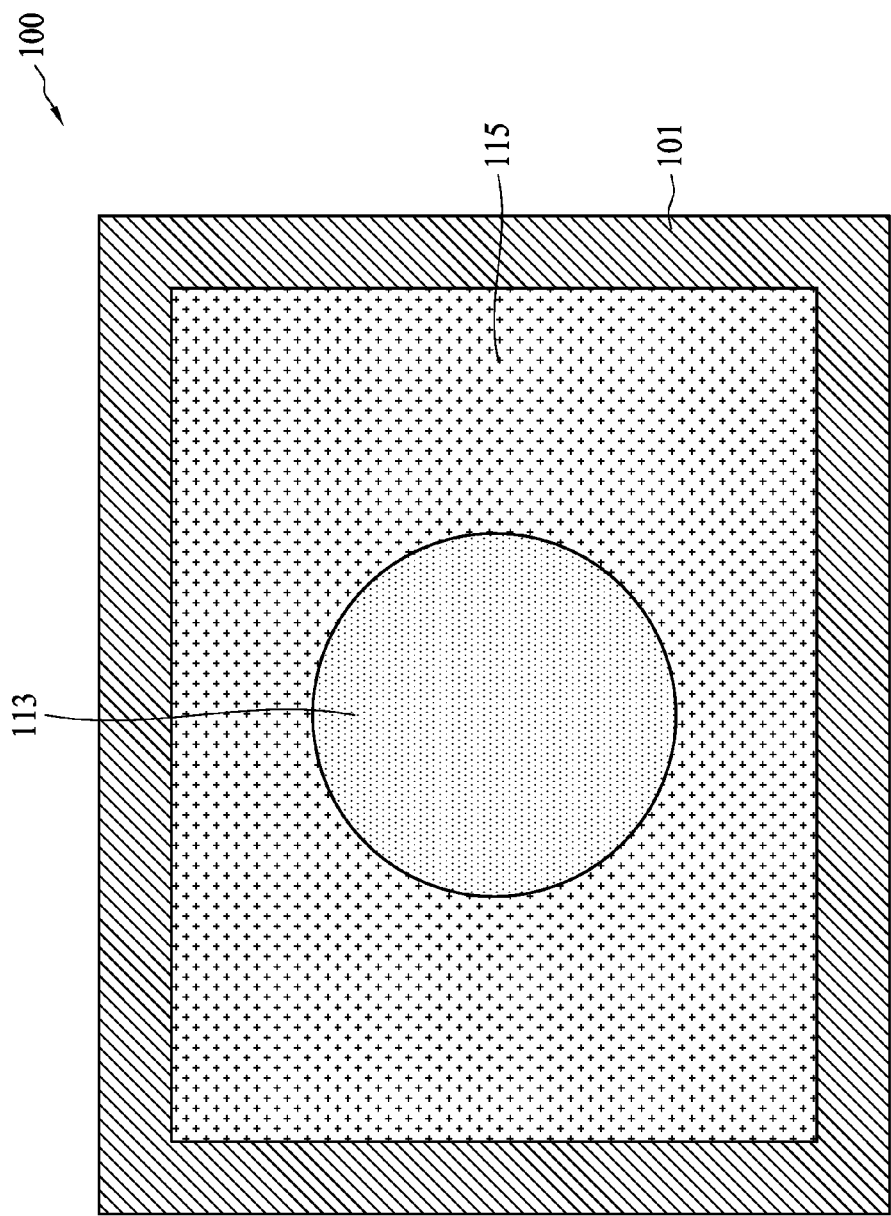


FIG. 1A

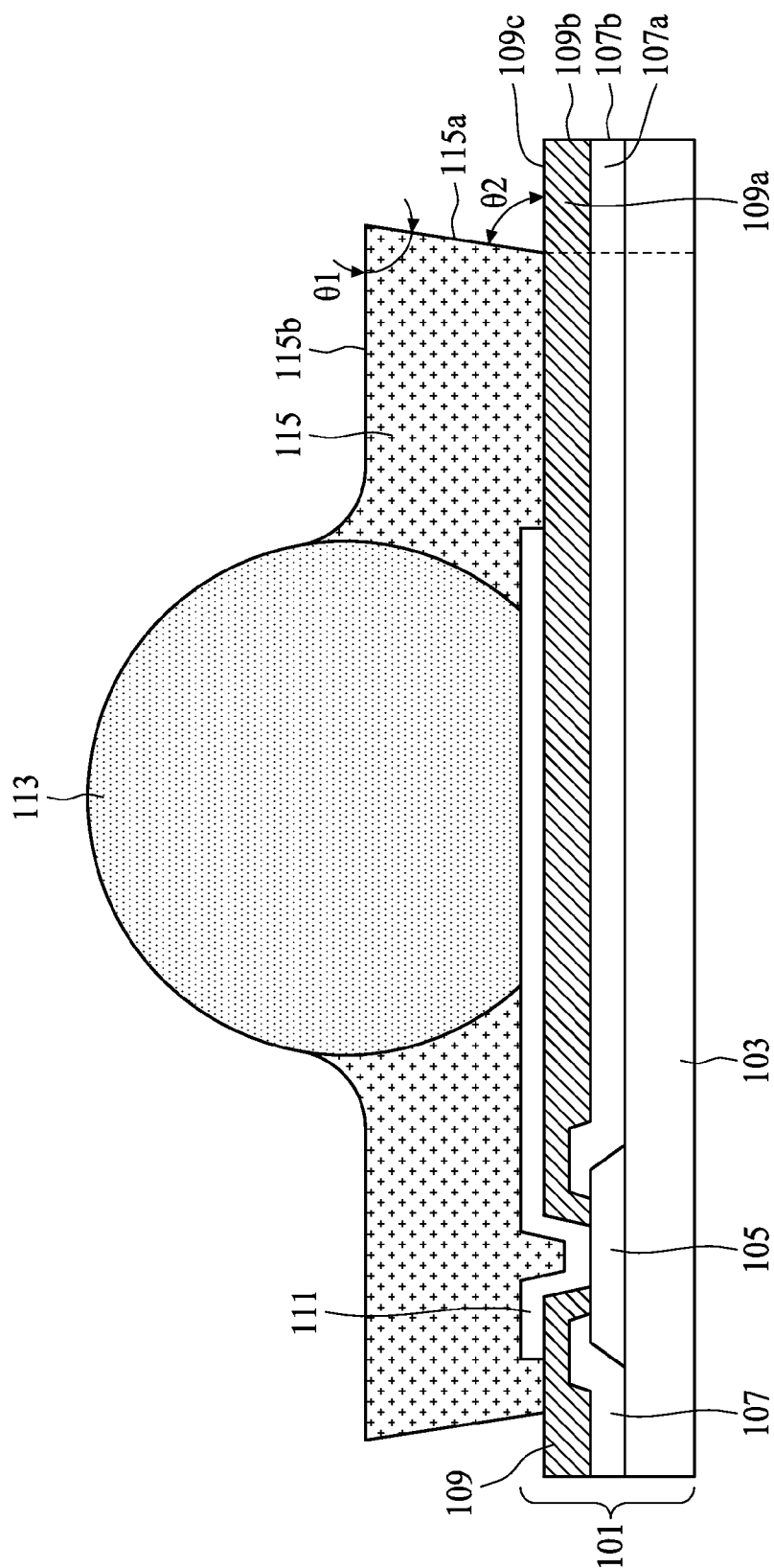


FIG. 1B

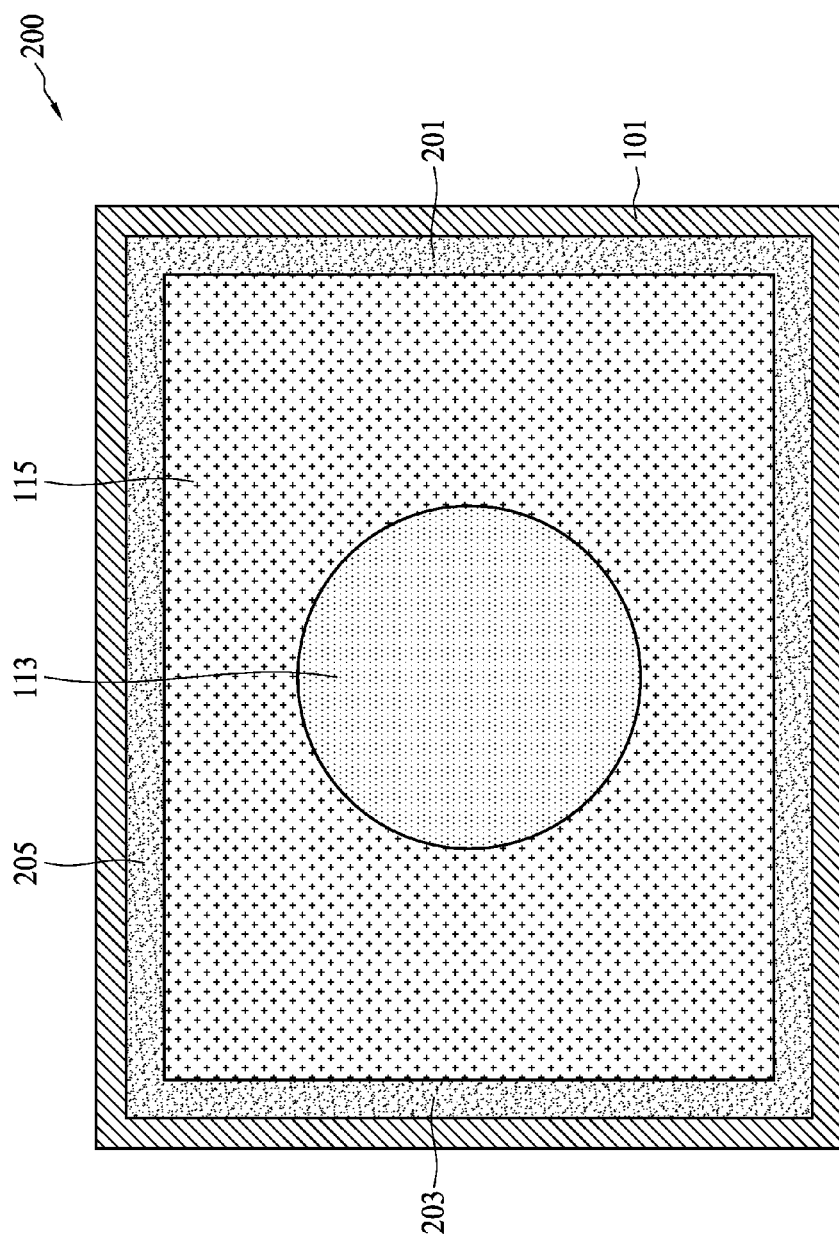


FIG. 2A

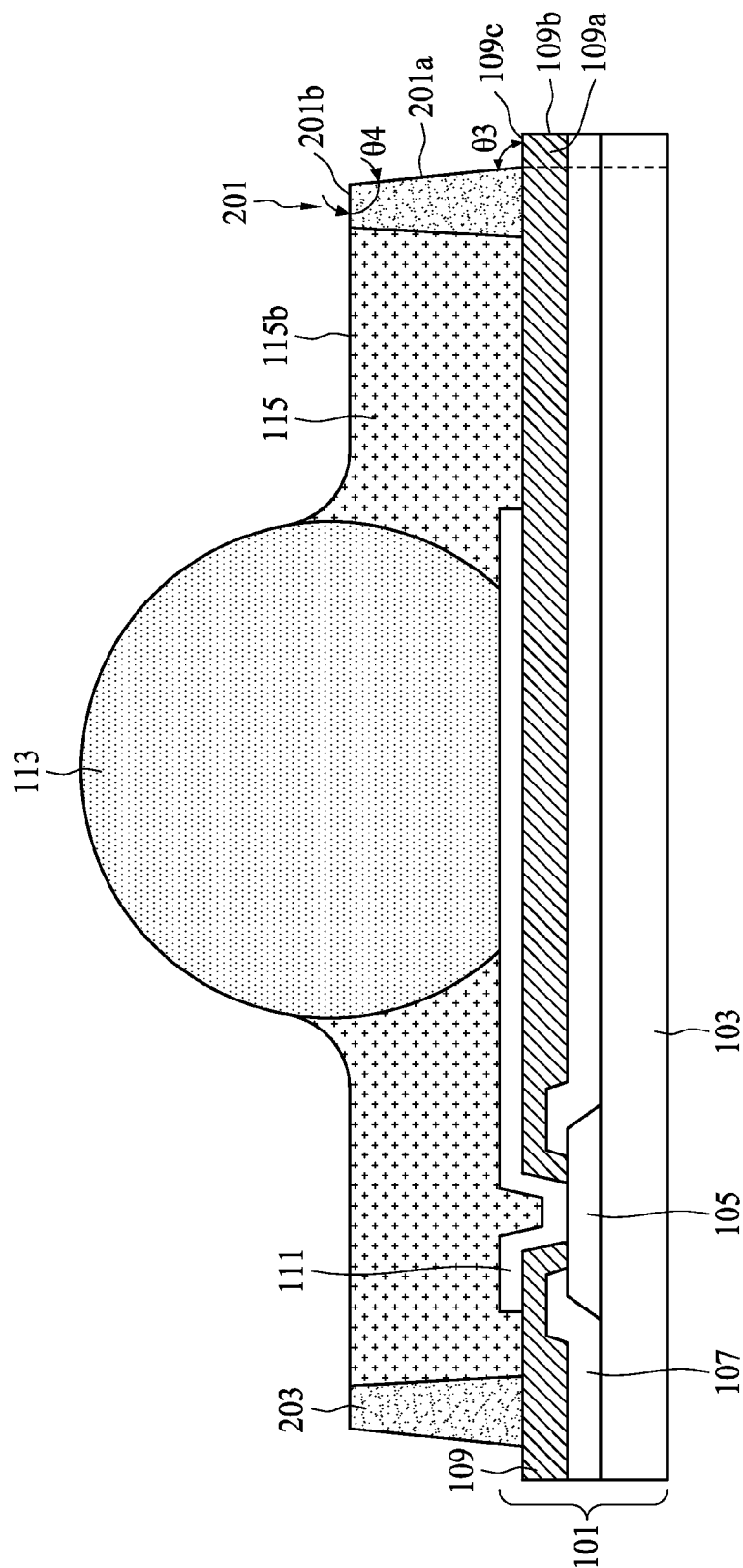


FIG. 2B

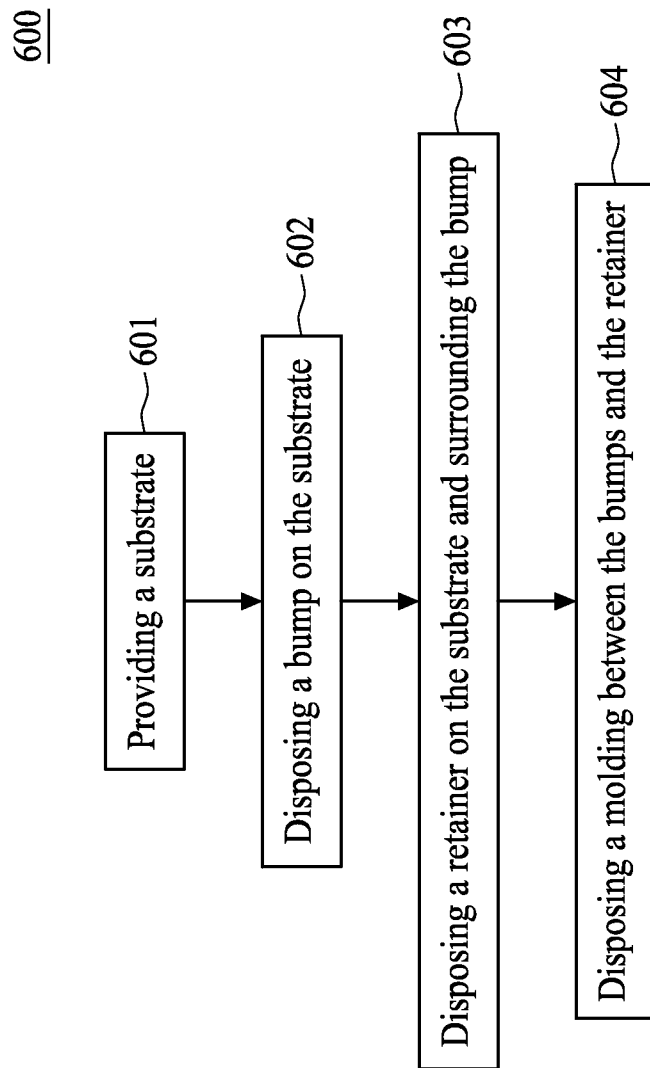


FIG. 3

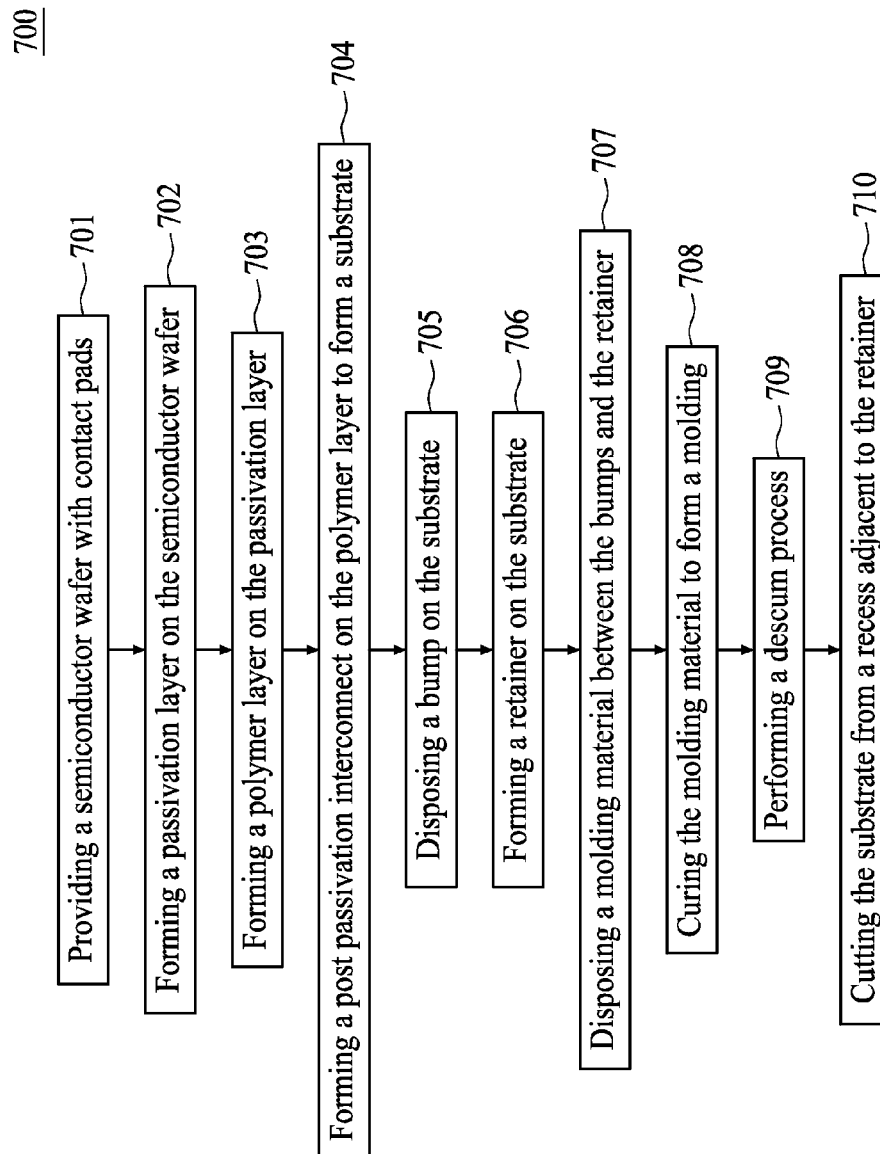


FIG. 4

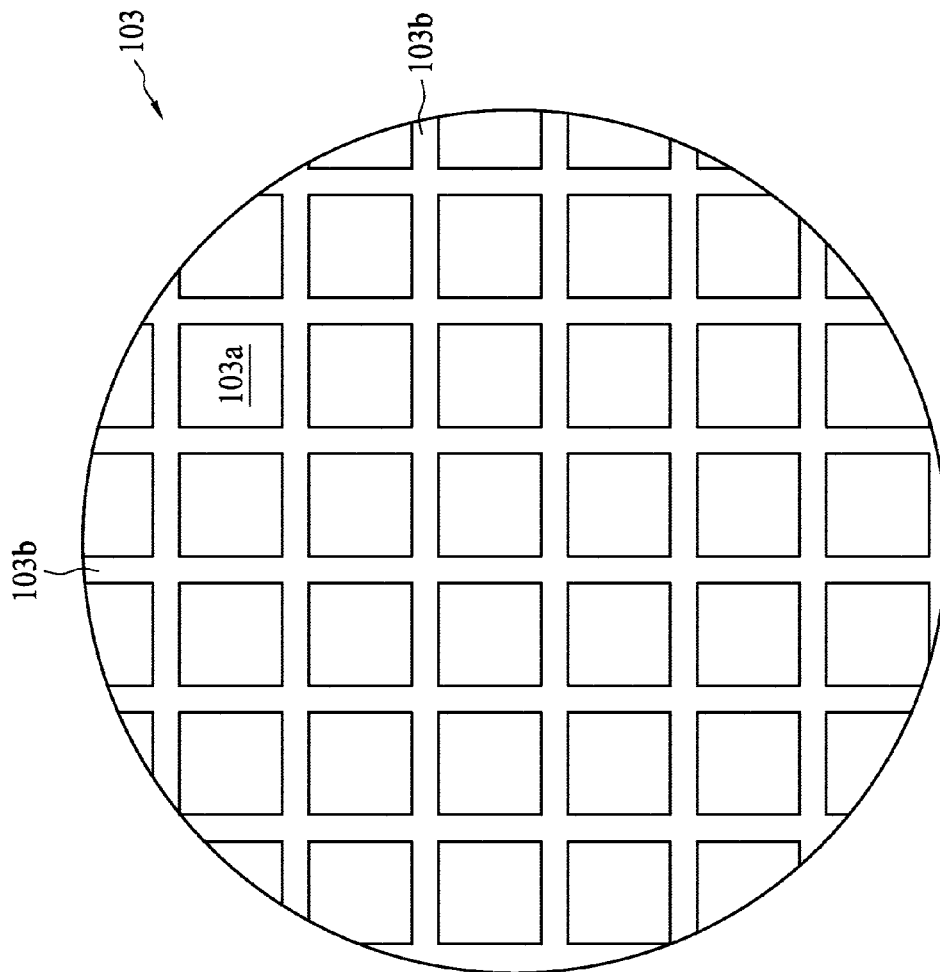
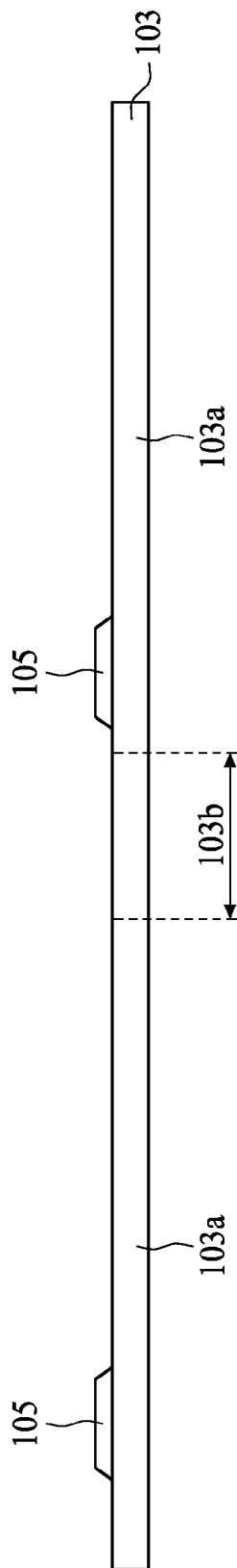


FIG. 4A



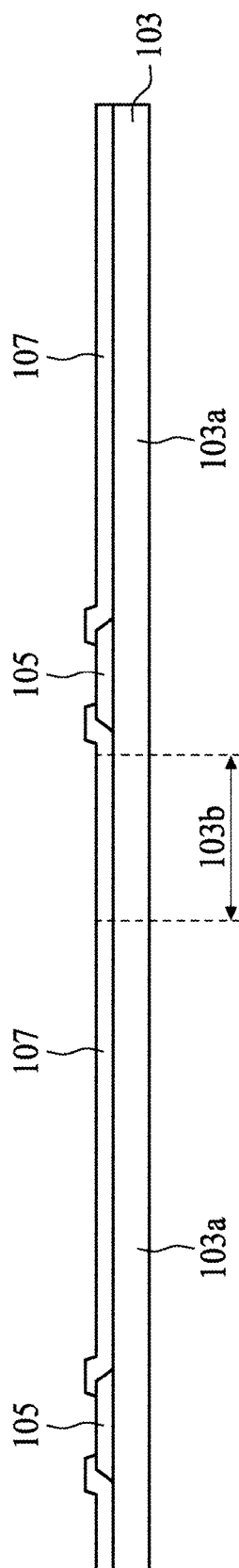


FIG. 4C

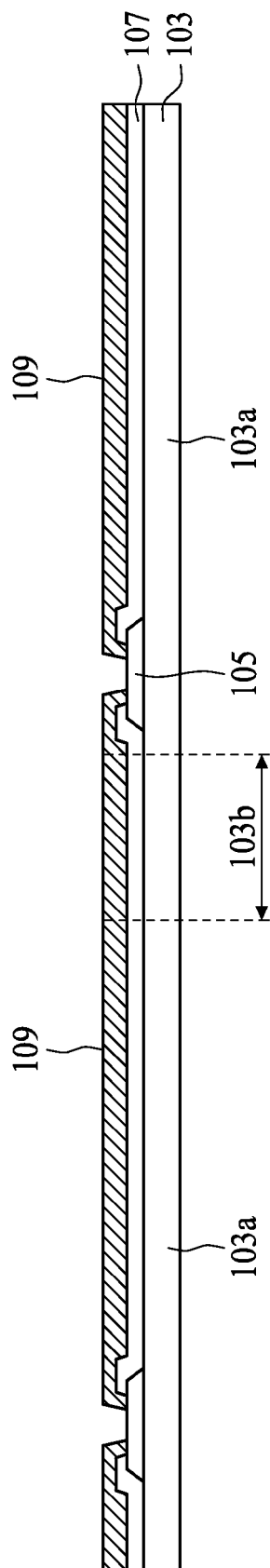


FIG. 4D

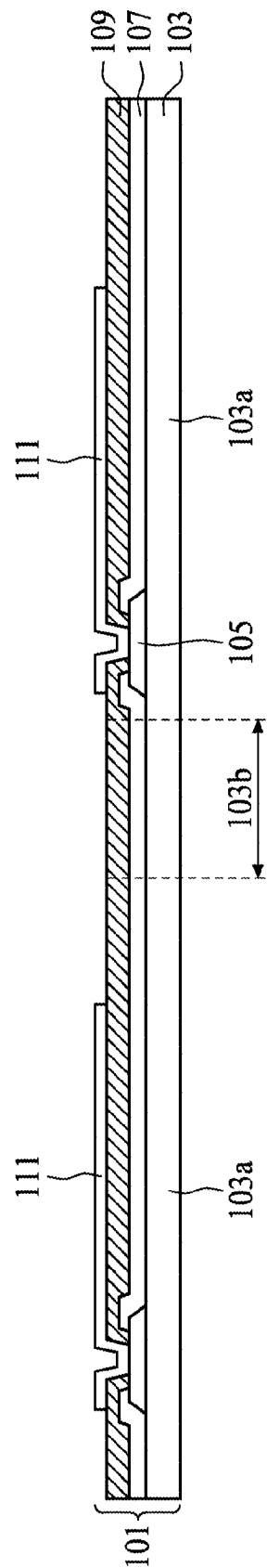


FIG. 4E

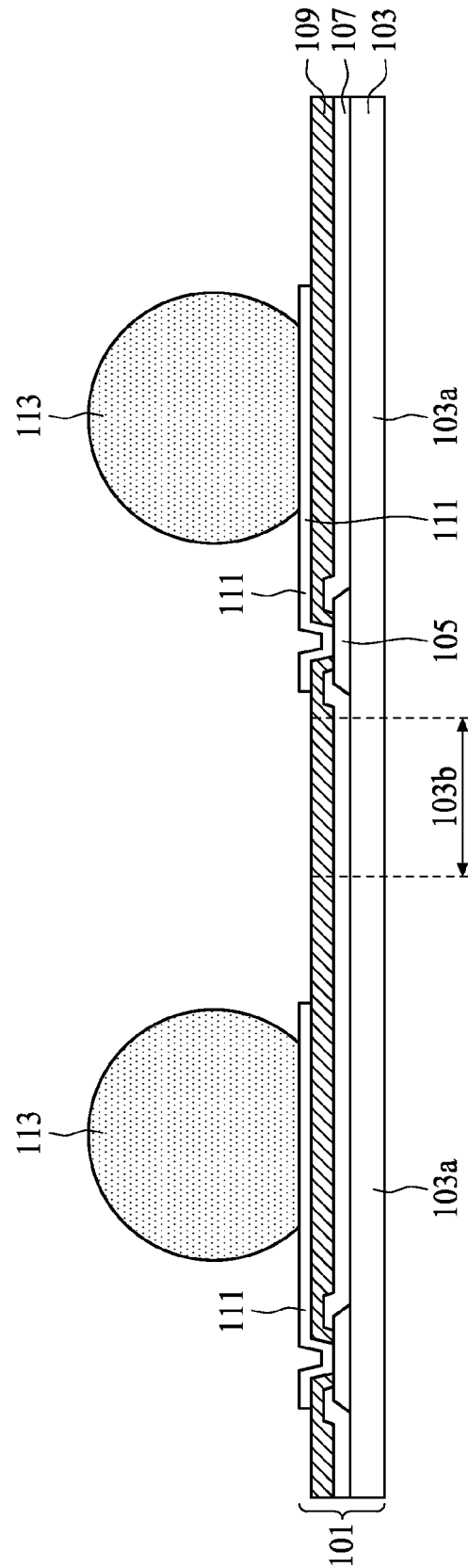


FIG. 4F

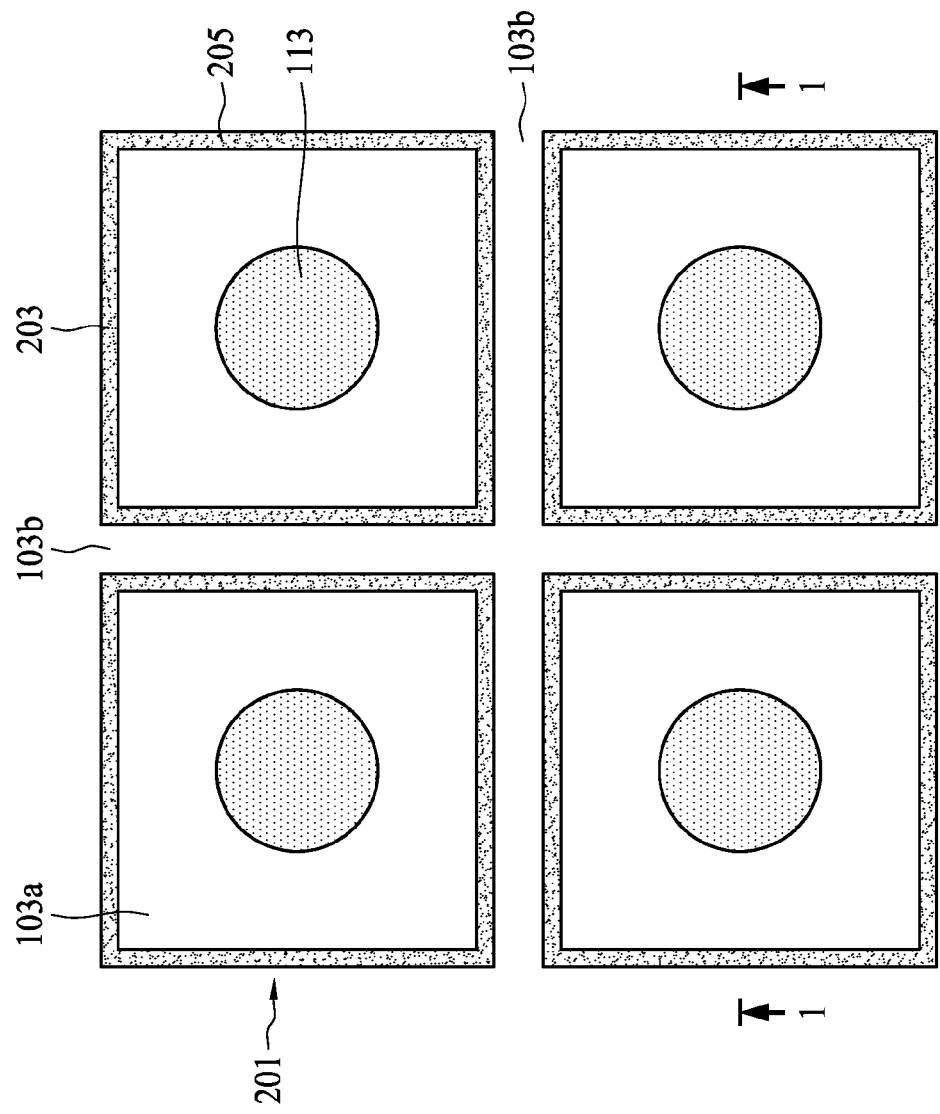


FIG. 4G

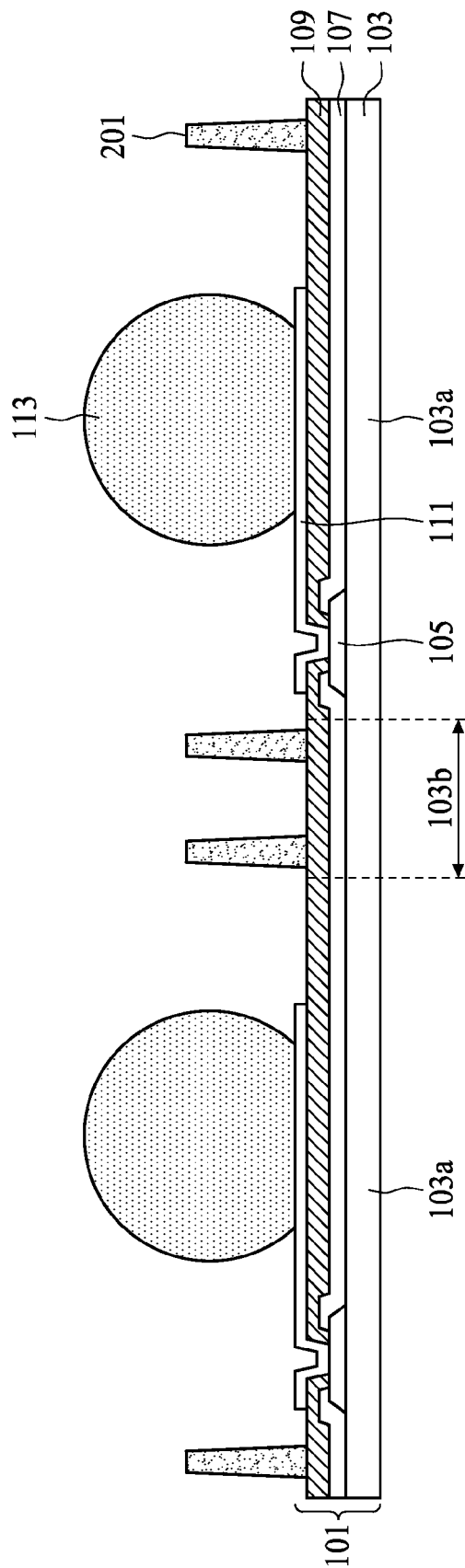


FIG. 4H

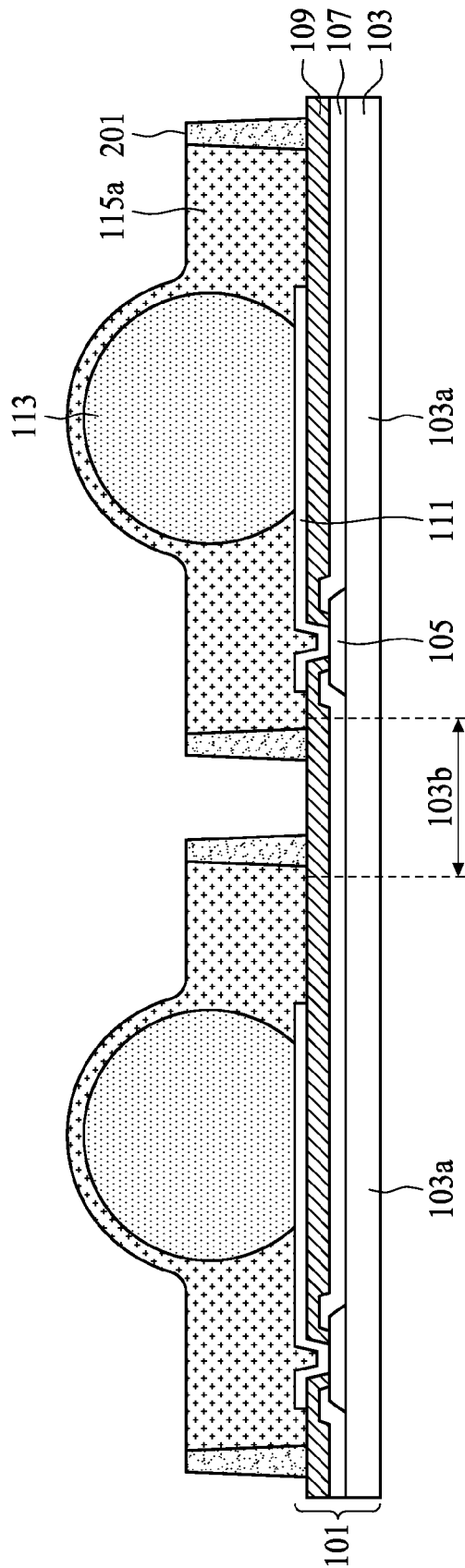


FIG. 4I

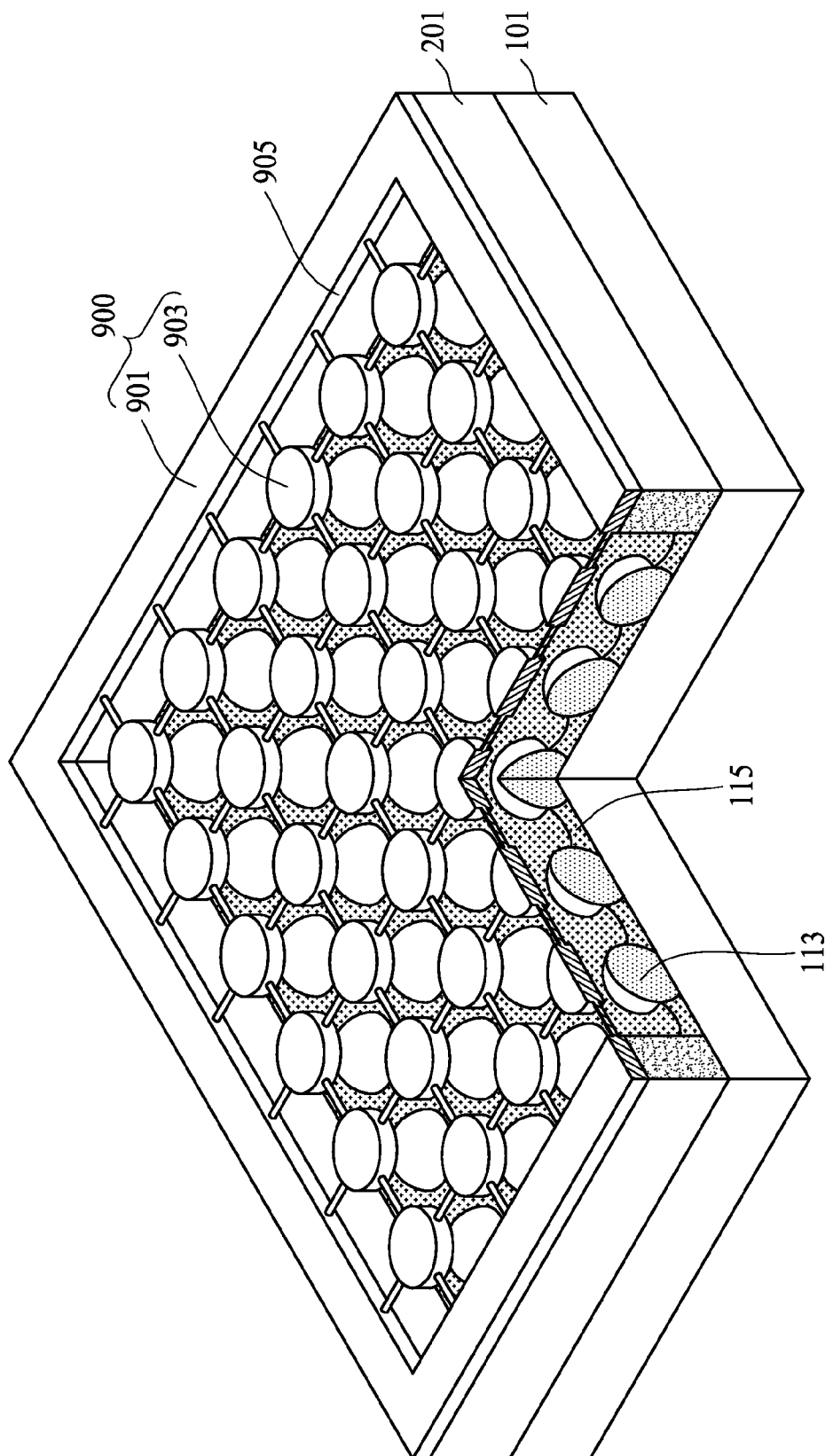


FIG. 4J

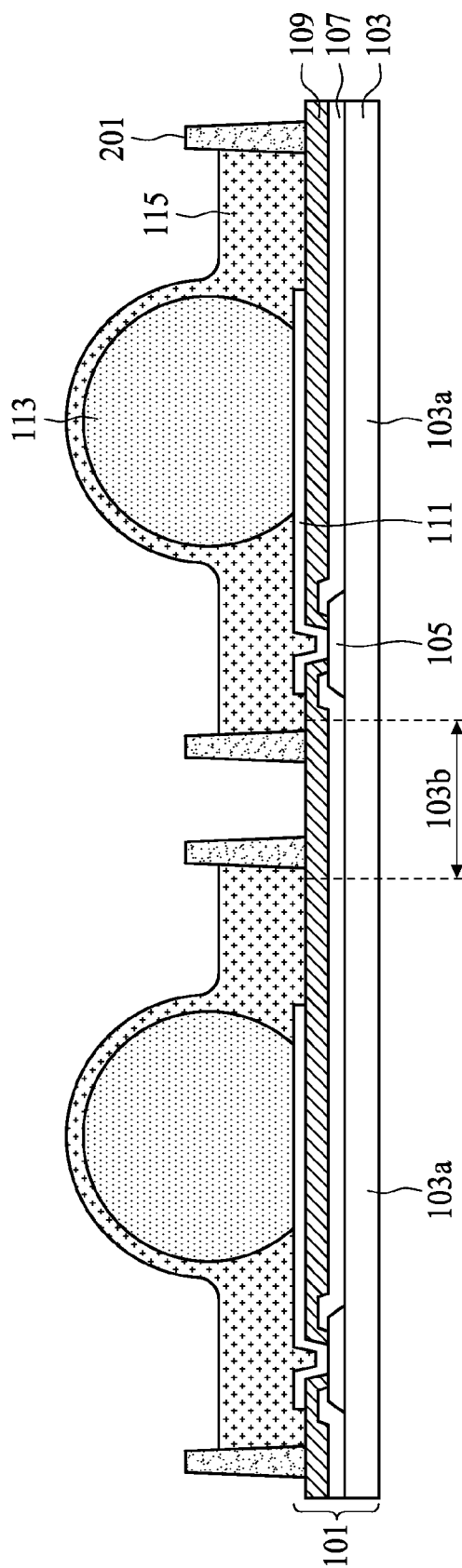


FIG. 4K

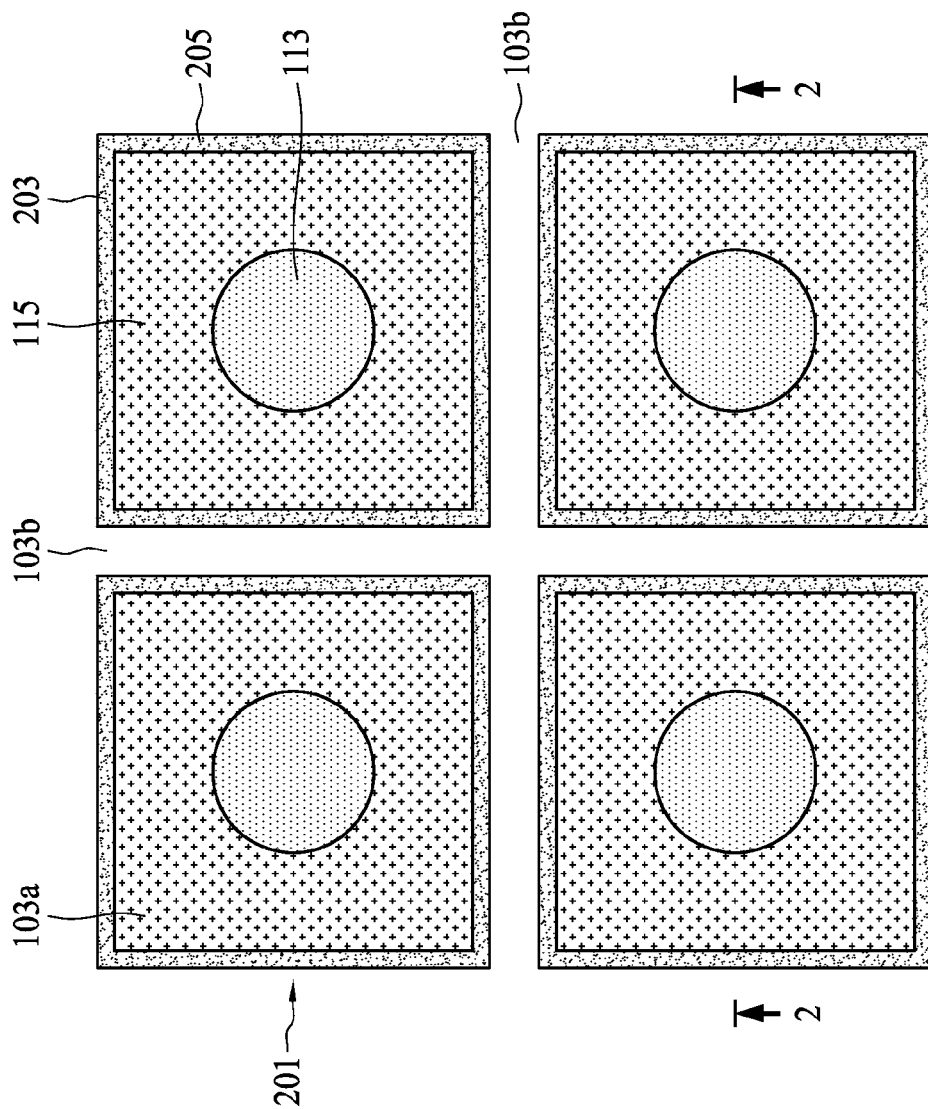


FIG. 4L

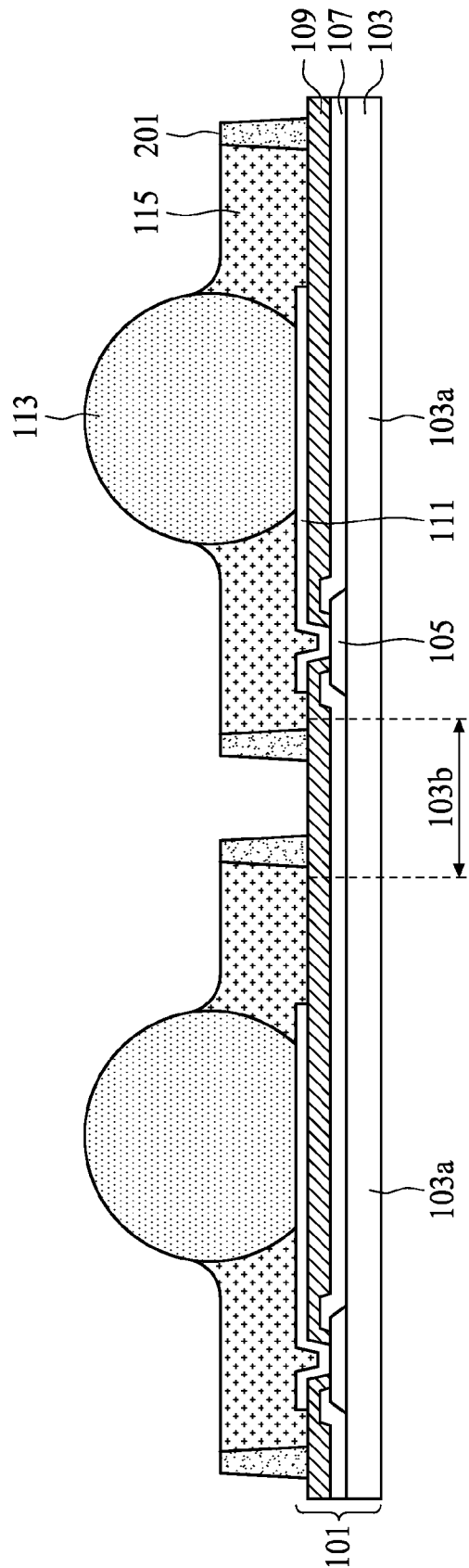


FIG. 4M

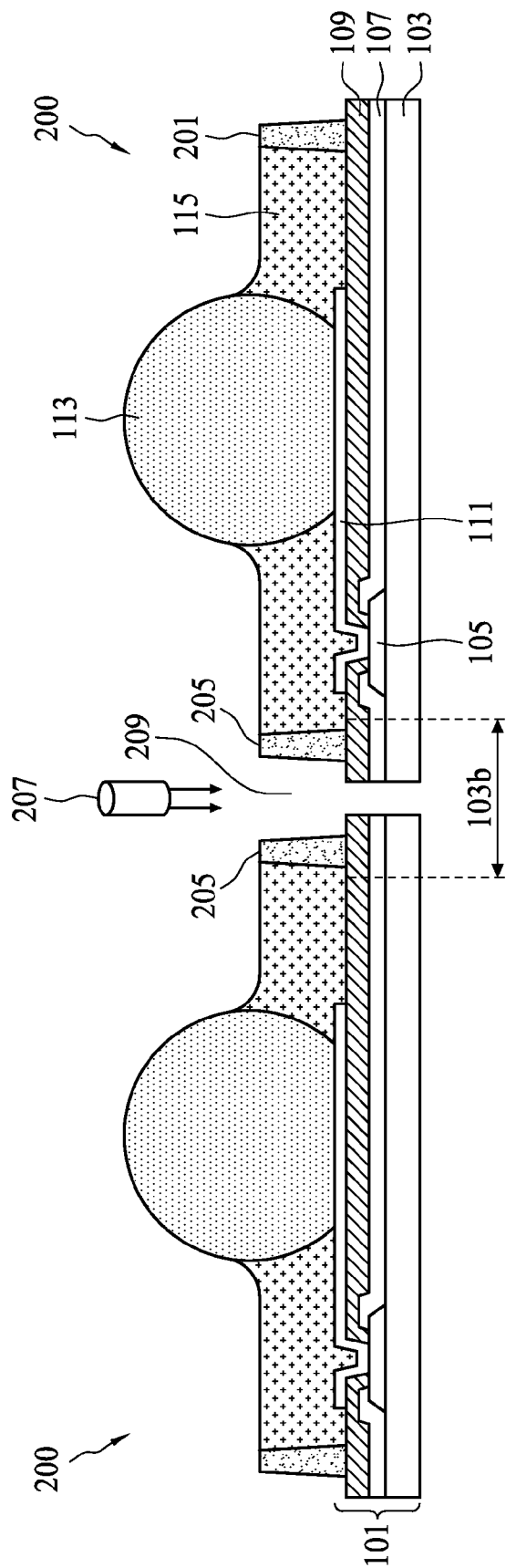


FIG. 4N

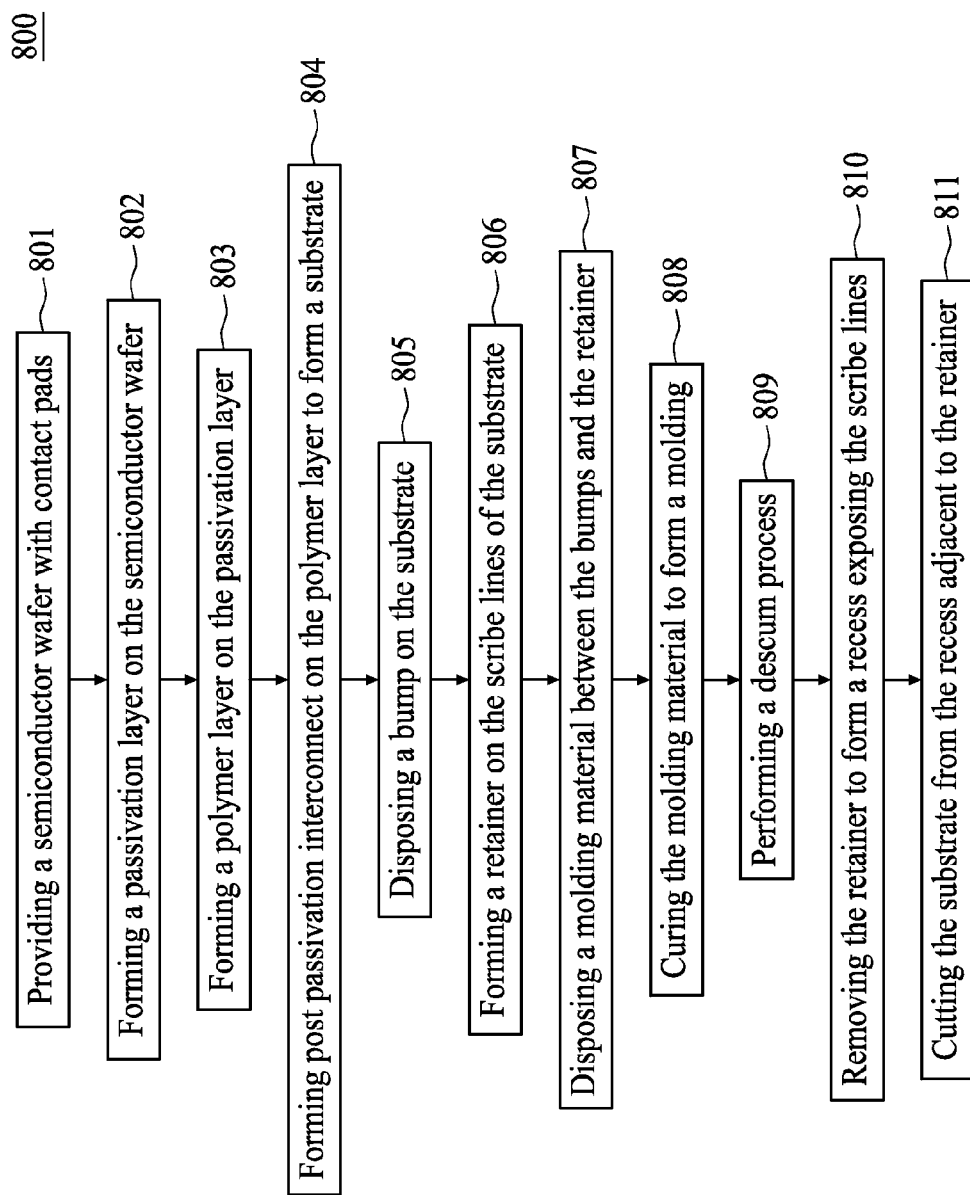


FIG. 5

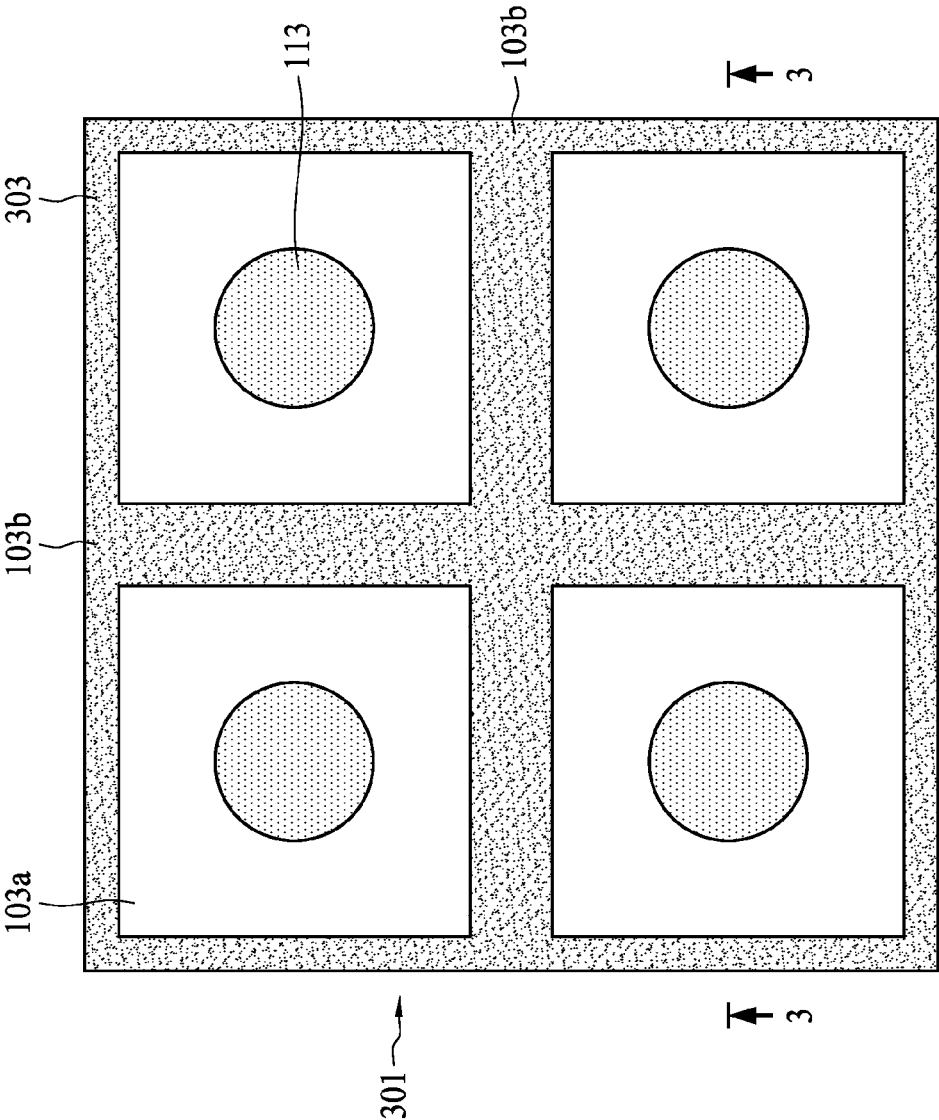


FIG. 5A

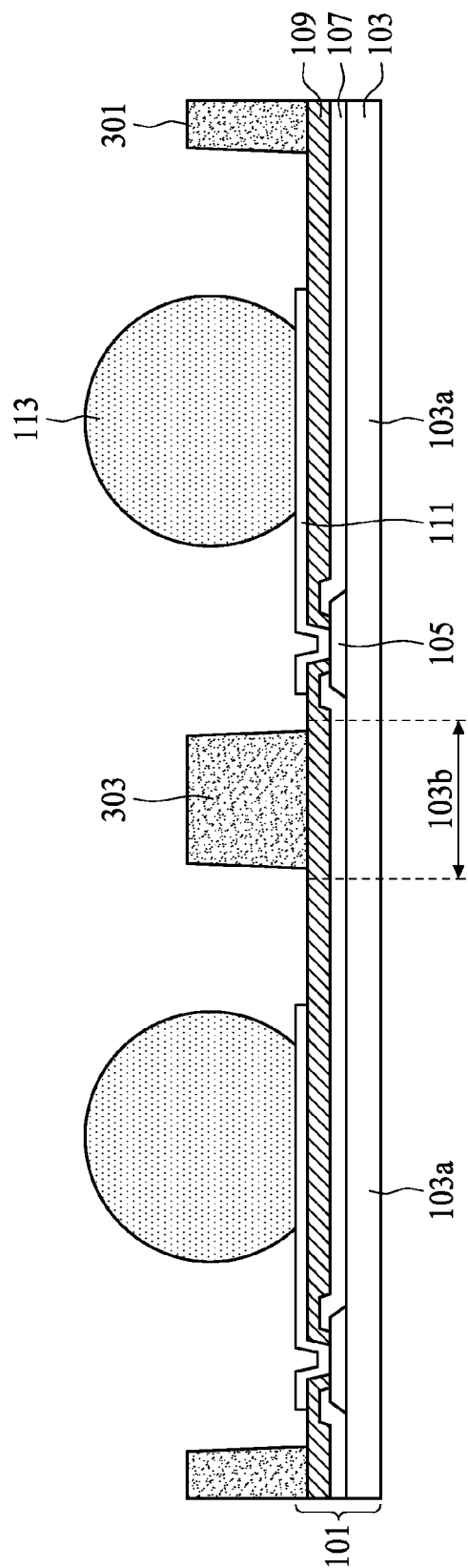


FIG. 5B

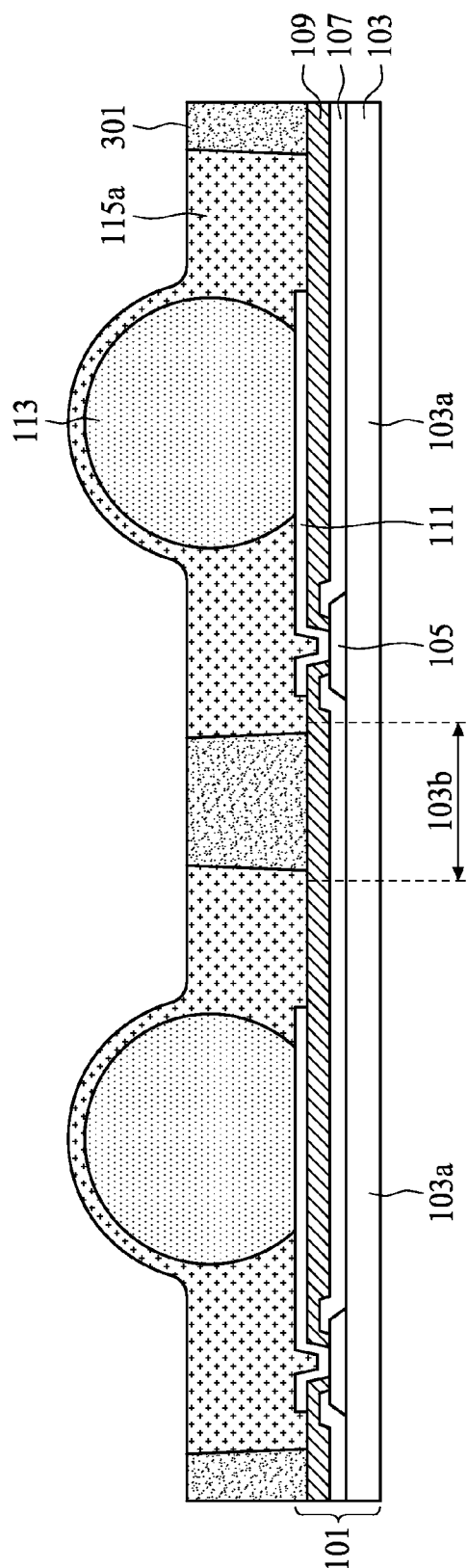


FIG. 5C

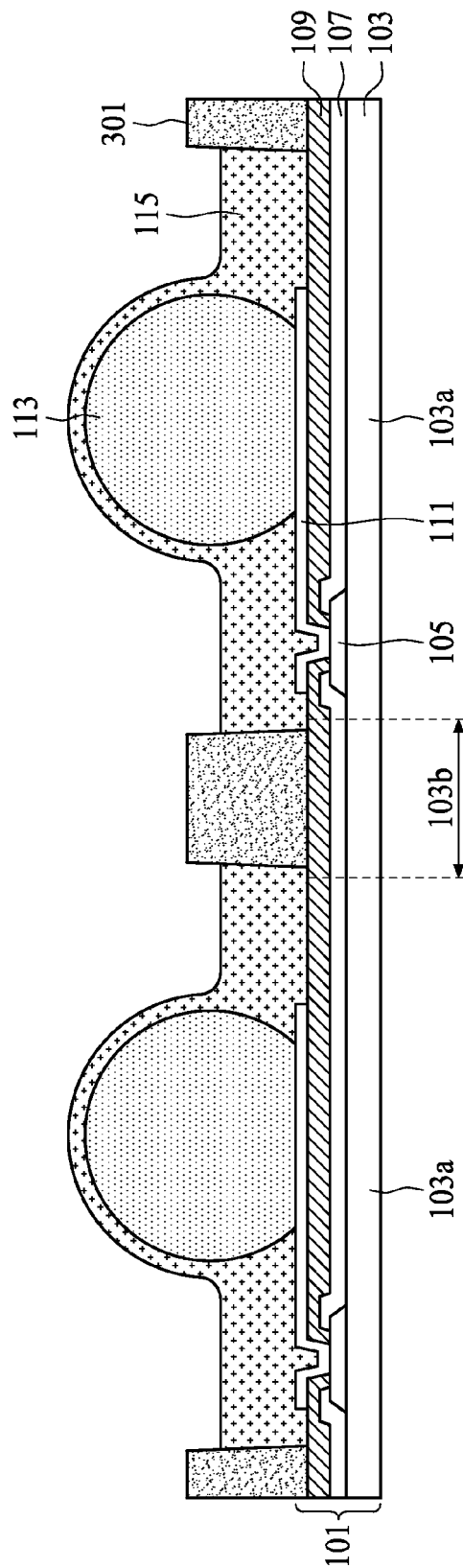


FIG. 5D

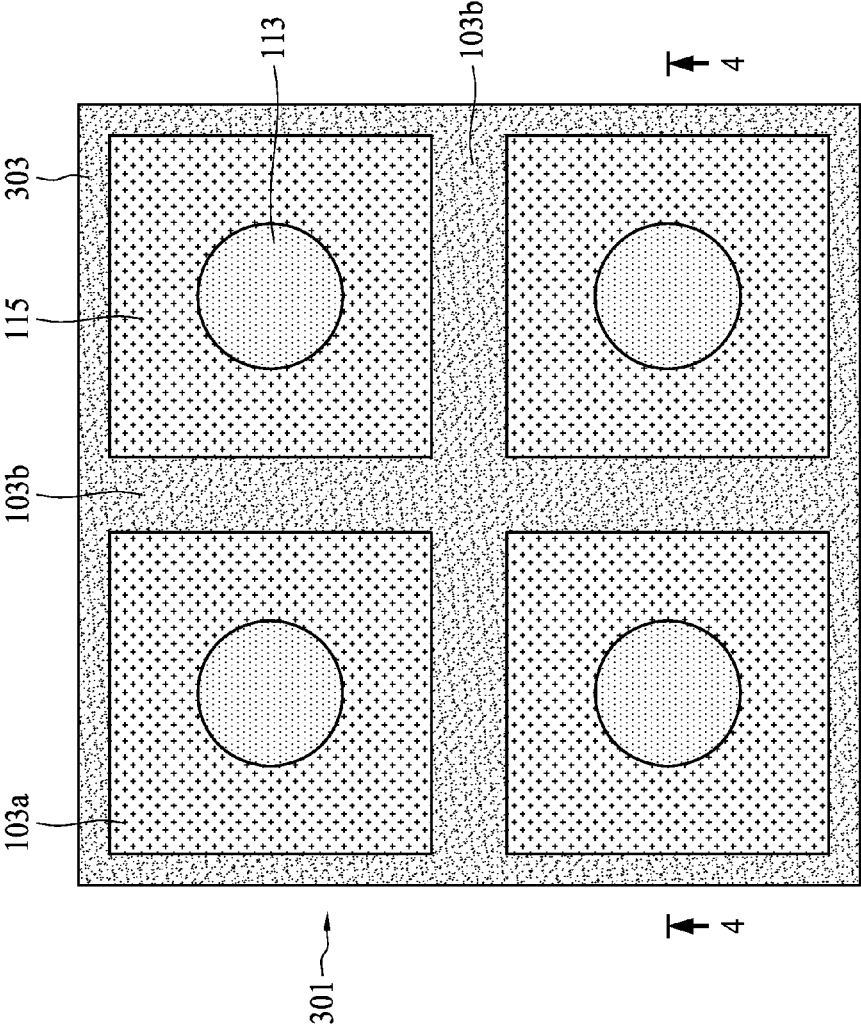


FIG. 5E

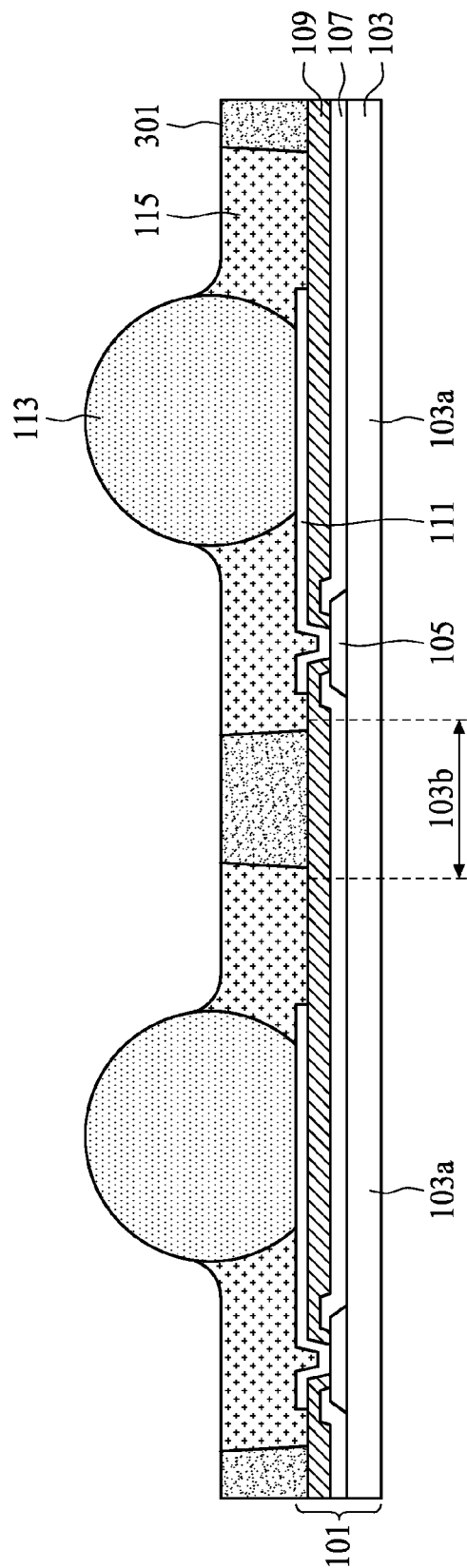


FIG. 5F

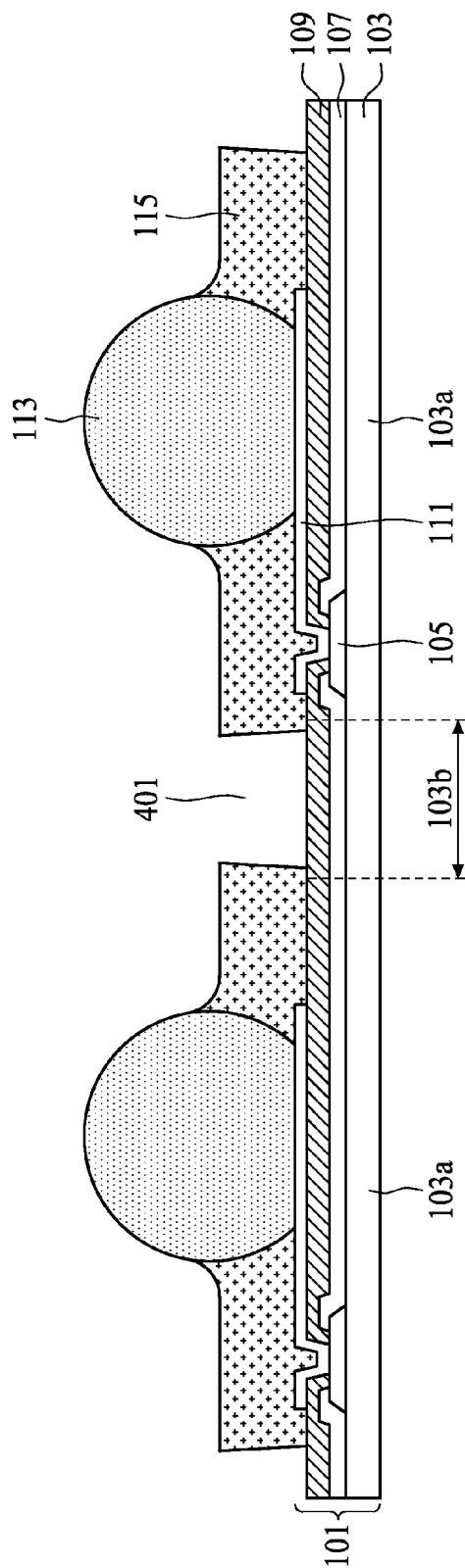


FIG. 5G

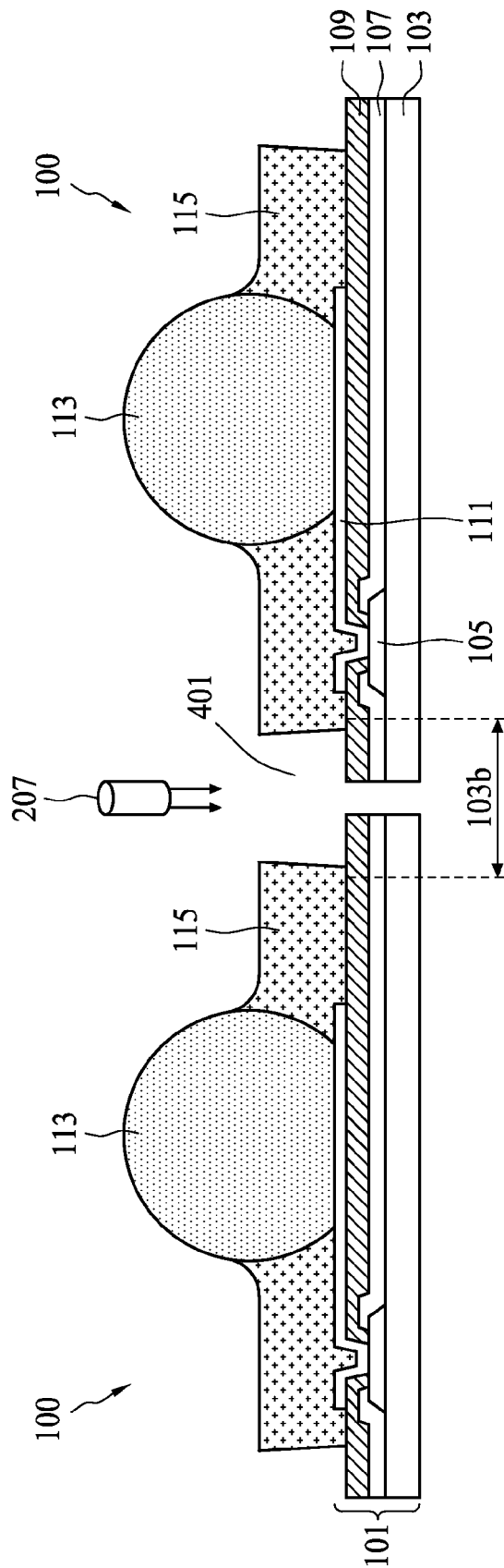


FIG. 5H

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SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

BACKGROUND

Electronic equipment using semiconductor devices are essential for many modern applications. With the advancement of electronic technology, electronic equipment is becoming increasingly smaller in size and complicated in structure and functionality. Wafer level packaging (WLP) technology has been gaining popularity and is widely applied. This technology provides a wafer level manufacturing of semiconductor devices with high functions and complicated structures while the size of the semiconductor devices is minimized.

The WLP technology is widely adopted for assembling and combining a number of semiconductor components to become a semiconductor device so as to minimize the final size of the semiconductor device as well as the electronic equipment. During assembly operations, the semiconductor device is sawed and singulated from a wafer by a mechanical or laser blade. The semiconductor device is individualized for subsequent assembly operations. However, the semiconductor device includes many semiconductor components with complicated structures. The singulation operations involve many complicated manufacturing processes and as such, the semiconductor device is easily damaged during the singulation operations.

The sawing operations on the wafer is complicated because it involves numerous operations, and such operations that are applied on the small semiconductor device include many different kinds of materials with different properties. The differences between materials would increase the complexity of manufacturing the semiconductor devices and may also increase yield loss. This could result in poor bondability between components, and cracking or delamination of the components.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Aspects of the present disclosure are best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying figures. It is noted that, in accordance with the standard practice in the industry, various features are not drawn to scale. In fact, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily increased or reduced for clarity of discussion.

FIG. 1A illustrates a top view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 1B illustrates a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 2A illustrates a top view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 2B illustrates a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device in finer detail in accordance with some embodiments.

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FIG. 4A is a top view of a semiconductor wafer with dies separated by scribe lines in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4B is a cross-sectional view of two adjacent dies separated by scribe lines in FIG. 4A in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4C is a schematic view of a passivation layer formed on a semiconductor wafer for structural support and physical isolation in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4D is a schematic view of a polymer layer formed on a passivation layer in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4E is a schematic view of a metal material is used to form a redistribution layer (RDL) or post-passivation interconnect (PPI) on the polymer layer in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4F is a schematic view of bumps disposed onto a post-passivation interconnect in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4G is a top view of a retainer formed on a substrate in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4H is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 1-1 in FIG. 4G in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4I is a schematic view of a liquid molding material dispensed on a substrate in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4J is a schematic view of a liquid molding material dispensed on a substrate by screen printing in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4K is a schematic view of a curing process performed to drive out volatile compounds in a liquid molding material in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4L is a top view of four adjacent dies separated by scribe lines in FIG. 4A in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4M is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 2-2 in FIG. 4L in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4N is a schematic view of a substrate cut into separated dies from a recess adjacent to a retainer in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device in finer detail in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5A is a top view of a retainer formed on a substrate in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 3-3 in FIG. 5A in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5C is a schematic view of a liquid molding material dispensed on a substrate in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5D is a schematic view of a curing process performed to drive out the volatile compounds in a liquid molding material in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5E is a top view of four adjacent dies separated by scribe lines in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5F is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 4-4 in FIG. 5E in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5G is a schematic view of a retainer removed to form a recess separating two adjacent moldings from each other in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 5H is a schematic view of a substrate cut into separated dies from a recess separating two adjacent moldings in accordance with some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following disclosure provides many different embodiments, or examples, for implementing different fea-

tures of the invention. Specific examples of components and arrangements are described below to simplify the present disclosure. These are, of course, merely examples and are not intended to be limiting. For example, the formation of a first feature over or on a second feature in the description that follows may include embodiments in which the first and second features are formed in direct contact, and may also include embodiments in which additional features may be formed between the first and second features, such that the first and second features may not be in direct contact. In addition, the present disclosure may repeat reference numerals and/or letters in the various examples. This repetition is for the purpose of simplicity and clarity and does not in itself dictate a relationship between the various embodiments and/or configurations discussed.

Further, spatially relative terms, such as “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature’s relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. The spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. The apparatus may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein may likewise be interpreted accordingly.

FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B respectively illustrate a top view and a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device **100**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **100** includes a substrate **101** with a first layer **107** and a second layer **109** over the first layer **107**, a bump **113** disposed over the second layer **109** of the substrate **101**, and a molding **115** disposed over the second layer **109** of the substrate **101**, wherein the molding **115** surrounds the bump **113**.

The substrate **101** includes a semiconductor wafer **103** such as a silicon wafer, a semiconductor-on-insulator (SOI) wafer, or any construction comprising semiconductor materials. In some embodiments, the semiconductor wafer **103** includes integrated circuits (IC) or semiconductor components such as transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes, photodiodes, fuses, and the like configured to perform one or more functions that are formed at the surface of the semiconductor wafer. The IC and semiconductor components are not shown in this illustration.

In some embodiments, a conductive contact pad **105** is disposed on the semiconductor wafer **103**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **100** has several contact pads **105** on an upper surface thereof. In some embodiments, the contact pad **105** is made with aluminum (Al), copper (Cu), tin (Sn), nickel (Ni), gold (Au), silver (Ag), or other electrically conductive materials. The size, shape, and location of the contact pad **105** are only for illustrative purposes and are not limiting. The pads **105** of the substrate **101**, which are not shown, may be of the same size or of different sizes.

In some embodiments, the first layer **107** is a passivation layer disposed on the surface of the semiconductor wafer **103** for structural support and physical isolation. In some embodiments, the passivation layer **107** is made of silicon nitride (SiN), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), silicon oxynitride (SiON), polyimide (PI), benzocyclobutene (BCB), polybenzoxazole (PBO), or other insulating materials. An opening of the passivation layer **107** is formed by removing a portion of the passivation layer **107** to expose a portion of the contact pad **105** while still covering the other portion of the contact

pad **105**. The size, shape, and location of the opening that is made are only for illustrative purposes and are not limiting.

In some embodiments, the second layer **109** is a polymer layer disposed on the passivation layer **107**, thereby filling a part of the opening of the passivation layer **107** over the contact pad **105**. In some embodiments, the polymer layer **109** is formed of a polymer, such as an epoxy, polyimide, benzocyclobutene (BCB), polybenzoxazole (PBO), and the like. However, other relatively soft, often organic, dielectric materials can also be used. The dimensions recited throughout the description are merely examples, and will change with the down-scaling of integrated circuits.

In some embodiments, a metal material is used to form a redistribution layer (RDL) or post-passivation interconnect (PPI) **111** on the polymer layer **109**. In some embodiments, the post-passivation interconnect **111** is made with, for example, Ti, Al, Ni, nickel vanadium (NiV), Cu, or a Cu alloy. In some embodiments, the substrate **101** includes a number of post-passivation interconnects **111** so as to form a network, which electrically connects to the contact pads **105** according to the function of the semiconductor device.

In some embodiments, the bump **113** is mount onto the post-passivation interconnect **111**. In some embodiments, the substrate **101** includes a number of post-passivation interconnects **111**, and the semiconductor device **100** has some bumps **113** disposed respectively onto the post-passivation interconnects **111**. In some embodiments, the bump **113** is among an array of solder balls formed as a grid, referred to as a “ball grid array” or “BGA”. However, the embodiments described herein are not limited to BGA packages or BGA balls. The embodiments are not limited to the spherical or ball shapes for the solder connectors.

In some embodiments, the bump **113** includes lead-free solders, including tin, copper, and silver, or “SAC” compositions, and other eutectics that have a common melting point and form conductive solder connections in electrical applications. For lead-free solders, SAC solders of varying compositions may be used, such as SAC **105** (Sn 98.5%, Ag 1.0%, Cu 0.5%), SAC **305**, SAC **405** and the like. Lead-free solders, such as solder balls, may be formed from SnCu compounds as well, without the use of silver (Ag).

In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **100** has several bumps **113** with the molding **115** disposed between the bumps **113**. In some embodiments, the molding **115** includes a molding compound, which can be a single layer film or a composite stack. In some embodiments, the molding compound includes various materials, for example, one or more of epoxy resins, phenolic hardeners, silicas, catalysts, pigments, mold release agents, and the like.

Referring to FIG. 1B, in some embodiments, the molding **115** has an inclined sidewall **115a** adjacent to a periphery of the substrate **101**, and the second layer **109** includes a protruded portion **109a** protruding from the sidewall **115a** of the molding **115**. Consequently, the upper surface **109c** of the second layer **109** is not completely covered by the molding **115**. In some embodiments, the protruded portion **109a** has a sidewall **109b** not aligned with the sidewall **115a** of the molding **115**, thereby forming a stepped configuration. In some embodiments, the first layer **107** also includes a protruded portion **107a** protruding from the sidewall **115a**. In some embodiments, the protruded portion **107a** has a sidewall **107b** aligned with the sidewall **109b** of the second layer **109**. In some embodiments, an included angle $\theta 1$ of the sidewall **115a** and the upper surface **115b** of the molding **115** is smaller than ninety degrees. In some embodiments, an included angle $\theta 2$ of the sidewall **115a** and the upper surface **109c** of the second layer **109** is smaller than ninety degrees.

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FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B respectively illustrate a top view and a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a semiconductor device **200**. Compared to the semiconductor device **100** shown in FIG. 1A, the semiconductor device **200** further includes a retainer **201** disposed over the second layer **109** of the substrate **101**, wherein the retainer **201** is disposed between the molding **115** and the peripheral of the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, the retainer **201** includes some blocking walls **203** adjacent to the periphery of the substrate **101**, and the blocking walls separate the molding **115** from the periphery of the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, the retainer **201** is a ring **205** that separates the molding **115** from the peripheral of the substrate **101**; in addition, the ring **205** surrounds the molding **115**.

In some embodiments, the retainer **201** is formed of materials different from the molding compound material. During the molding operation, the retainer **201** breaks the molding **115** that would otherwise form as a continuous matrix of the molding compound material. Preferably, the retainer **201** formed of stress relief materials can further release the stress of the molding, in addition to breaking the molding. In some embodiments, the retainer **201** is made of a photoresist, silicon nitride (SiN), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), or silicon oxynitride (SiON).

Referring to FIG. 2B, in some embodiments, the protruded portion **109b** of the second layer **109** protrudes from a sidewall **201a** of the retainer **201** adjacent to the periphery of the substrate **101**. Therefore, the upper surface **109c** of the second layer **109** is not completely covered by the molding **115**. In some embodiments, the sidewall **201a** of the retainer **201** is not aligned with the sidewall **109b** of the second layer **109**, thereby forming a stepped configuration. In some embodiments, a top end of the retainer **201** is lower than or equal to a top end of the bump **113**.

In some embodiments, the retainer **201** has a trapezoidal cross-section. The sidewall **201a** of the retainer **201** is an inclined sidewall adjacent to the periphery of the substrate **101**. The width of the retainer **201** at the upper end is smaller than that of at the bottom end. In some embodiments, an included angle $\theta 3$ of the sidewall **201a** of the retainer **201** and an upper surface **109c** of the second layer **109** is larger than ninety degrees. In some embodiments, an included angle $\theta 4$ of the sidewall **201a** of the retainer **201** and the upper surface **201b** of the retainer **201** is larger than ninety degrees.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a method **600** for manufacturing the semiconductor device **100** shown in FIG. 1B or the semiconductor device **200** shown in FIG. 2B in accordance with some embodiments. The method **600** begins in operation **601** where a substrate is provided for disposing bumps. Then, a bump is disposed on the substrate in operation **602**. Subsequently, a retainer is disposed on the substrate to surround the bump in operation **603**. In operation **604**, a molding is disposed between the bump and the retainer, wherein the molding surrounds the bump, and the retainer surrounds the molding.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method **700** for manufacturing the semiconductor device **200** shown in FIG. 2A in accordance with some embodiments. The method **700** includes a number of operations (**701**, **702**, **703**, **704**, **705**, **706**, **707**, **708**, **709**, **710**).

In operation **701**, a semiconductor wafer **103** is provided as shown in FIG. 4A, which is a top view of the semiconductor wafer **103** with dies (or circuit regions) **103a** separated by scribe lines **103b** in accordance with some embodiments. In some embodiments, the semiconductor wafer **103** includes an array of dies **103a** separated from each other by

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two sets of intersecting scribe lines **103b**. One set of scribe lines **103b** extend along a first direction and another set of scribe lines **103b** extend along a second direction.

FIG. 4B is a cross-sectional view showing two adjacent dies **103a** separated by scribe lines **103b** in FIG. 4A. In some embodiments, the semiconductor wafer **103** has several contact pads **105** on an upper surface thereof. The contact pad **105** is formed by deposition operation such as an electrolytic plating or electroless plating process. In some embodiments, the contact pad **105** has various plating treatments to increase adhesion, provide diffusion barriers, prevent oxidation, and increase solderability.

Referring to FIG. 4C, in operation **702**, a passivation layer **107** is formed on the semiconductor wafer **103** and on top of the contact pad **105** for structural support and physical isolation. In some embodiments, the passivation layer **107** is formed by a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process. An opening of the passivation layer **107** is made by removing a portion of passivation layer **107** using a mask-defined photoresist etching process to expose a portion of the contact pad **105**.

Referring to FIG. 4D, in operation **703**, a polymer layer **109** is formed on the passivation layer **107**, following the contour of the passivation layer **107**, thereby filling a part of the opening of the passivation layer **107** over the contact pad **105**. The polymer layer **109** does not completely fill the opening of the passivation layer **107** over the contact pad **105**. Instead, the polymer layer **109** is patterned to form an opening to expose a part of the contact pad **105**, while covering the rest of the contact pad **105**. The patterning of the polymer layer **109** may include photolithography operations. Formation methods of the polymer layer **109** include spin coating or other commonly used methods.

Referring to FIG. 4E, in operation **704**, a metal material is used to form a redistribution layer (RDL) or post-passivation interconnect (PPI) **111** on the polymer layer **109** to form a substrate **101**, wherein the post-passivation interconnect (PPI) **111** follows the contour of the polymer layer **109**. In some embodiments, a number of post-passivation interconnects **111** are formed on the polymer layer **109** so as to form a network, which electrically connects to the contact pads **105** according to the function of the semiconductor device. In some embodiments, the formation methods of the post-passivation interconnect (PPI) **111** include electrolytic plating, electroless plating, sputtering, chemical vapor deposition methods, and the like.

Referring to FIG. 4F, in operation **705**, a bump **113** is mount onto the post-passivation interconnect **111**. In some embodiments, a number of post-passivation interconnects **111** are formed on the polymer layer **109** so as to form a network, and several bumps **113** are formed respectively onto the post-passivation interconnects **111**. In some embodiments, the bump **113** is one among an array of the solder balls formed as a grid, referred to as a "ball grid array" or "BGA".

FIG. 4G is a top view showing four adjacent dies **103a** separated by scribe lines **103b** in FIG. 4A, and FIG. 4H is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 1-1 in FIG. 4G. Referring to FIG. 4G and FIG. 4H, in operation **706**, a retainer **201** is formed on the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, a mask-defined photoresist etching process is used to form the retainer **201** including several blocking rings **205** on the polymer layer **109** of the substrate **101**, wherein the retainer **201** surrounds the bump **113**. In some embodiments, the mask-defined photoresist etching process includes a resist-coating process, a baking process to drive

out the volatile compounds in the resist and solidifying the resist, and a developing process to strip the non-solidified resist.

In some embodiments, the retainer **201** is formed of stress relief materials, which is different from the molding compound material. During the molding operation, the retainer **201** breaks the molding **115** that would otherwise form as a continuous matrix of the molding compound material. Preferably, the retainer **201** formed of stress relief materials can further release the stress of the molding, in addition to breaking the In some embodiments, the blocking rings **205** are separated from each other. In some embodiments, the blocking ring **205** includes several blocking walls **203** on the scribe line **103b**, and the blocking wall **203** separates the bump **113** from the periphery of the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, the width of the blocking wall **203** is smaller than the width of the scribe line **103b**. In some embodiments, the top end of the blocking wall **203** is lower than or equal to the top end of the bump **113**.

Referring to FIG. 4I, in operation **707**, a liquid molding material **115a** is dispensed on the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, the liquid molding material **115a** is an under-fill that flows beneath the bump **113** by capillary action. In some embodiments, the liquid molding compound **115a** is dispersed inside the blocking rings **205** and surrounds the bump **113**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **200** has several bumps **113**, and the liquid molding compound **115a** is disposed between the bumps **113**. In some embodiments, the liquid molding compound **115a** includes various materials, for example, one or more of epoxy resins, phenolic hardeners, silicas, catalysts, pigments, mold release agents, and the like.

Referring to FIG. 4J, in some embodiments, the liquid molding material **115a** is dispensed on the substrate **101** by screen printing. In some embodiments, the screen printing uses a stencil mask **900** including a frame **901** and several circular patterns **903** surrounding several openings **905**. After the formation of the retainer **201**, the stencil mask **900** is aligned with the substrate **101**, and the liquid molding material **115a** is squeezed through the apertures **905** of the stencil mask **900** and onto the interior of the retainer **201**, thereby printing the liquid molding material **115a** onto the substrate **101**. In the screen printing, the frame **901** is aligned with the retainer **201**, and the circular patterns **903** are aligned with the bumps **113**.

In some embodiments, the top end of the retainer **201** is lower than or equal to the top end of the bump **113**. If there is too much liquid molding material **115a** disposed inside the blocking rings **205** of the retainer **201**, the top end of the liquid molding material **115a** is higher than the top end of the retainer **201**. To lower the top end of the liquid molding material **115a**, a compression process is performed to compress the top end of the liquid molding material **115a** so as to remove a portion of the liquid molding material **115a** above the top end of the retainer **201**.

Referring to FIG. 4K, in operation **708**, a curing process is performed to drive out the volatile compounds, such as moisture or other organic compounds with low evaporation temperature, in the liquid molding material **115a**, so as to convert the liquid molding material **115a** into a solid and supportive molding **115**. In some embodiments, the curing operation is performed at a temperature in a range from about 200° C. to about 250° C. In some other embodiments, the curing temperature is in a range from about 130° C. to about 180° C. The duration of the curing process is in a range from about 1 minute to about 10 minutes, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4L is a top view showing four adjacent dies **103a** separated by scribe lines **103b** in FIG. 4A, and FIG. 4M is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 2-2 in FIG. 4L. Referring to FIG. 4L and FIG. 4M, in operation **709**, after the formation of the molding **115**, a descum process is performed to remove any residual cured molding compound from the surfaces of the bumps **113**. In some embodiments, during the descum process, the surfaces of the bumps **113** are cleaned using a laser so as to remove any residual cured molding compound from the surfaces of the bumps **113**. In some embodiments, the laser cleaning of the bumps **113** is conducted with a UV laser.

Referring to FIG. 4N, in operation **710**, the substrate **101** is cut into separated dies **103a** from a recess **209** adjacent to the retainer **201**. In some embodiments, two adjacent blocking rings **205** form the recess **209** over the scribe line **103b**. In some embodiments, these dies **103a** are separated through a die cutting or singulation process in which, typically, a mechanical or laser saw is used to cut through the substrate between individual chips or dies. In some embodiments, the laser sawing uses an Argon (Ar) based ion laser beam tool **207**.

The molding **115** shrinks and expands when heated and cooled, e.g. during thermal cycling tests, and the shrinking and expansion will create stress on the substrate **101**, especially for large die because of the large DNP (the distances to neutral point). Without the use of the retainer **201**, the molding **115** would form a continuous matrix extending all the way across the substrate **101**. Such a continuous matrix can create a substantial stress that is believed to cause a warp of the substrate **101** and cracks propagating in the substrate **101** during the thermal cycling tests. By using the retainer **201**, the molding **115** is formed between the bumps **113** and the retainer **201** locally, rather than forming a continuous matrix. Consequently, the warp and cracks of the substrate **101** are effectively reduced or eliminated.

In addition, without the use of the retainer **201**, the molding **115** would be formed on the scribe lines **103b**, i.e., the scribe lines **103b** would be shadowed, increasing the difficulty for aligning the mechanical or laser saw with the scribe lines **103b** during the die cutting or singulation process. In contrast, since there is no molding material on the scribe lines **103b**, i.e., the scribe lines **103b** are exposed rather than being shadowed, and the alignment of the mechanical or laser saw can be easily carried out. Furthermore, since there is no molding material on the scribe lines **103b**, the laser saw is workable during the die cutting or singulation process.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a method **800** for manufacturing a semiconductor device **100** shown in FIG. 1A in accordance with some embodiments. The method **800** includes a number of operations **801**, **802**, **803**, **804**, **805**, **806**, **807**, **808**, **809**, **810**, **811**, wherein the operations **801**, **802**, **803**, **804**, **805** are the same as the operations **701**, **702**, **703**, **704**, **705**.

FIG. 5A is a top view showing four adjacent dies **103a** separated by scribe lines **103b**, and FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 3-3 in FIG. 5A. Referring to FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B, after performing the operations **801**, **802**, **803**, **804**, **805**; in operation **806**, a retainer **301** is formed on the polymer layer **109** of the substrate **101**. In some embodiments, the retainer **301** includes several blocking walls **303** disposed over the scribe lines **103b**.

In some embodiments, a mask-defined photoresist etching process is performed to form the blocking walls **303** of the retainer **301**, wherein the blocking walls **303** surrounds the bump **113**. In some embodiments, the mask-defined photo-

resist etching process includes a resist-coating process, a baking process to drive out the volatile compounds in the resist and solidifying the resist, and a developing process to strip the non-solidified resist.

Referring to FIG. 5C, in operation 807, a liquid molding material 115a is dispensed on the substrate 101, wherein the liquid molding material 115a is a liquid underfill that flows beneath the bump 113 by capillary action. In some embodiments, the liquid molding compound 115a surrounds the bump 113. In some embodiments, the liquid molding compound 115a is disposed between the bumps 113 and the blocking walls 303 of the retainer 301.

Referring to FIG. 5D, in operation 808, a curing process is performed to drive out the volatile compounds, such as moisture or other organic compounds with low evaporation temperature, in the liquid molding material 115a so as to convert the liquid molding material 115a into a solid and supportive molding 115.

FIG. 5E is a top view showing four adjacent dies 103a separated by scribe lines 103b, and FIG. 5F is a cross-sectional view along a cross-sectional line 4-4 in FIG. 5E. Referring to FIG. 5E and FIG. 5F, in operation 809, after the formation of the molding 115, a descum process is performed to remove any residual cured molding compound from the surfaces of the bumps 113.

Referring to FIG. 5G, in operation 810, the retainer 301 is removed to form a recess 401 separating two adjacent moldings 115 from each other. In some embodiments, the retainer 301 is formed of photoresist, and the removal of the retainer 301 is performed using wet etching, dry etching, or the combination thereof in order to form the recess 401. In wet etching, an etchant includes organic solvents, such as acetone and phenol base compounds or an inorganic solution of sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide. In dry etching, oxygen plasma is widely used in the stripping of the photoresist.

Referring to FIG. 5H, in operation 811, the substrate 101 is cut into separated dies 103a from the recess 401 separating two adjacent moldings 115. In some embodiments, these dies 103a are separated through a die cutting or singulation process in which, typically, a mechanical or laser saw is used to cut through the wafer between individual chips or dies. In some embodiments, the laser sawing uses an Argon (Ar) based ion laser beam tool 207.

Without the use of the retainer 301, the molding 115 would form a continuous matrix extending all the way across the substrate 101. Such a continuous matrix can create a substantial stress that is believed to cause a warp of the substrate and cracks propagating in the substrate 101 during thermal cycling tests. The molding 115 shrinks and expands when heated and cooled during thermal cycling tests, and the shrinking and expansion will create stress on the substrate, especially for large die because of the large DNP (the distances to neutral point). After the molding 115 is formed, the retainer 301 is removed to form the protruded portion 109a of the second layer 109, such that the molding 115 does not cover the entire upper surface of the substrate 101. Consequently, the warp and cracks of the substrate 101 is effectively reduced or eliminated.

In addition, without the use of the retainer 301, the molding 115 would be formed on the scribe lines 103b, i.e., the scribe lines 103b would be shadowed, increasing the difficulty for aligning the mechanical or laser saw with the scribe lines 103b during the die cutting or singulation process. The retainer 301 prevents the molding 115 from being formed on the scribe lines 103b. After the molding 115 is formed, the retainer 301 is removed to expose the scribe

lines 103b. Consequently, the alignment of the mechanical or laser saw can be easily carried out. Furthermore, since there is no molding material on the scribe lines 103b, the laser saw is workable during the die cutting or singulation process.

In conclusion, in some embodiments, the semiconductor device includes a retainer or a protruded portion configured to prevent the molding from covering the entire surface of the substrate or forming a continuous matrix extending all the way across the substrate, so as to avoid creating a warp of the substrate and cracks propagating in the substrate during thermal cycling tests. Consequently, the warp and cracks of the substrate is effectively reduced or eliminated during thermal cycling tests. In addition, by using the retainer to prevent the molding from forming over scribe lines so as to allow the scribe lines to be exposed rather than shadowed, the alignment of the mechanical or laser saw can be easily carried out. Furthermore, since there is no molding material on the scribe lines, the laser saw is workable during the die cutting or singulation process.

In some embodiments, a semiconductor device includes a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer, a bump disposed over the second layer, and a molding disposed over the second layer and surrounding the bump, wherein the second layer includes a protruded portion protruding from a sidewall of the molding adjacent to a periphery of the substrate.

In some embodiments, a semiconductor device includes a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer, a bump disposed over the second layer, a molding disposed over the second layer and surrounding the bump, and a retainer disposed over the second layer, wherein the retainer is disposed between the molding and a periphery of the substrate.

In some embodiments, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device includes providing a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer, disposing several of bumps on the second layer, disposing a retainer on the second layer and surrounding the plurality of bumps, and disposing a molding between the bumps and the retainer.

The foregoing outlines features of several embodiments so that those skilled in the art may better understand the aspects of the present disclosure. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that they may readily use the present disclosure as a basis for designing or modifying other processes and structures for carrying out the same purposes and/or achieving the same advantages of the embodiments introduced herein. Those skilled in the art should also realize that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, and that they may make various changes, substitutions, and alterations herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A semiconductor device, comprising:

- a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer;
- a bump disposed over the second layer;
- a molding disposed over the second layer and surrounding the bump, wherein the second layer includes a protruded portion protruding from a sidewall of the molding adjacent to a periphery of the substrate; and
- a retainer disposed on the second layer, wherein the retainer is disposed between the molding and the

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periphery of the substrate, and the retainer includes silicon nitride (SiN), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), or silicon oxynitride (SiON);

wherein an included angle of the sidewall of the molding and an upper surface of the molding is smaller than ninety degrees;

wherein the retainer has a trapezoidal cross-section, a bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is in contact with the second layer, an upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section is coplanar with a portion of a top surface of the molding immediately adjacent to the retainer, and the bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is longer than the upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section.

2. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the first layer includes a protruded portion protruding from a sidewall of the molding adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

3. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein a sidewall of the second layer is aligned with a sidewall of the first layer adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

4. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the molding has an inclined sidewall adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

5. A semiconductor device, comprising:

a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer;

a bump disposed over the second layer;

a molding disposed over the second layer and surrounding the bump; and

a retainer disposed on the second layer, wherein the retainer is disposed between the molding and a periphery of the substrate, and the retainer includes silicon nitride (SiN), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), or silicon oxynitride (SiON);

wherein a top end of the retainer is lower than or equal to a top end of the bump;

wherein the retainer has a trapezoidal cross-section, a bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is in contact with the second layer, an upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section is coplanar with a portion of a top surface of the molding immediately adjacent to the retainer, and the bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is longer than the upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section.

6. The semiconductor device of claim 5, wherein the retainer includes a blocking ring surrounding the molding.

7. The semiconductor device of claim 5, wherein the retainer includes a plurality of blocking walls adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

8. The semiconductor device of claim 5, wherein the retainer has an inclined sidewall adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

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9. The semiconductor device of claim 5, wherein an included angle of a sidewall of the retainer and an upper surface of the retainer is larger than ninety degrees.

10. The semiconductor device of claim 5, wherein the second layer includes a protruded portion protruding from a sidewall of the retainer adjacent to the periphery of the substrate.

11. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

providing a substrate including a first layer and a second layer over the first layer;

disposing a plurality of bumps on the second layer;

using silicon nitride (SiN), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), or silicon oxynitride (SiON) to form a retainer on the second layer and surrounding the plurality of bumps; and

disposing a molding on the second layer, wherein the molding is disposed between the bumps and the retainer;

wherein the retainer has a trapezoidal cross-section, a bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is in contact with the second layer, an upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section is coplanar with a portion of a top surface of the molding immediately adjacent to the retainer, and the bottom base of the trapezoidal cross-section is longer than the upper base of the trapezoidal cross-section.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

removing the retainer from the second layer to form a recess between at least two of the bumps, wherein the recess exposes at least a portion of scribe lines of the substrate; and

cutting the substrate into a plurality of dies from the recess.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cutting of the substrate is implemented by a laser saw.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising cutting the substrate into a plurality of dies from a recess adjacent to the retainer.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the forming of the retainer includes performing a photolithographic process to form a plurality of blocking walls on scribe lines of the substrate.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the forming of the retainer includes performing a photolithographic process to form a plurality of blocking rings, and the molding is disposed inside the blocking rings.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the disposing of the molding includes performing a screen stencil process.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein a sidewall of the retainer is not aligned with a sidewall of the second layer, thereby forming a stepped configuration.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the top end of the retainer is lower than or equal to the top end of the bump.

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